

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 097808

R 171450Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3331

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCOFSUL CAPETOWN

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJ: STATUS OF ANGOLAN ARMY AND POLICE FORCES

1. SUMMARY. ONLY SLOW PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON REACHING THE MANPOWER GOALS SET BY THE ALVOR AGREEMENT FOR THE ANGOLAN ARMY. NO JOINT STAFF HAS YET BEEN EFFECTIVELY CONSTITUTED. OFFICERS SECONDED BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO ORGANIZE THE ANGOLAN ARMY HAVE BEEN OF GENERALLY LOW CALIBER. ALL FORMER AUXILIARIES IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WILL BE DISARMED BY MARCH 15. THE POLICE FORCES ARE BEING RECONSTITUTED BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. A MEMBER OF THE AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON SECURITY MATTERS DISCUSSED THE EVOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN ARMY WITH A CONGEN OFFICER. WHILE HE TALKED IN GENERALITIES ABOUT PROBLEMS HE DID NOT WANT TO BE PINNED DOWN ON APPORTIONING BLAME BETWEEN THE MOVEMENTS.

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EM HE PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE EXACT FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF TROOPS EACH MOVEMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANGOLAN ARMY, CALLED THE IFTEGRA TED

FORCE (FI). HE ADMITTED THAT NONE OF THE GROUPS REACHED THEIR FEBRUARY GOAL OF 500 MEN, BUT THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED AT LEAST 350. HE LAID THE BLAME FOR THE SHORTFALL ON THE NEARLY TOTAL LACK OF COORDINATION AND STAFF WORK ON THE PART OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS' ARMIES. THE OFFICERS THEY HAVE NOMINATED TO SERVE ON THE JOINT STAFF WITH THE PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN THEIR LEAST ABLE. THEY ARE FREQUENTLY ABSENT AND ARE NEVER PREPARED TO DISCUSS AN ISSUE IN DEPTH. WITH SOME PRODDING HE ADMITTED THAT UNITA AND MPLA WERE THE BIG OFFENDERS IN THIS AREA, WHEREAS FNLA TOOK THE STAFF WORK SERIOUSLY AND SECONDED BETTER QUALITY PEOPLE. HE STATED THAT UNTIL ALL THE LIBERATION ARMIES CARRIED THEIR OWN WEIGHT IN THE STAFF WORK THAT THE ENVISAGED LARGER FI WOULD FALL SHORT OF BEING A TRUE COORDINATED FORCE.

4. TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR THE FI TO BE BROUGHT UP TO STRENGTH FIRST IN LUANDA, THEN IN THE ZONES AROUND SALAZAR AND CARMONA, LATER IN THE SOUTH AND EAST AND LAST, IN CABINDA. THE LOW PRIORITY FOR CABINDA IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SERIOUS DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON THE ENCLAVE BETWEEN THE THREE MOVEMENTS. THEY PREFER TO POSTPONE FACING UP TO THIS ISSUE AND INSTEAD GARRISON THOSE AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT IS ATTAINABLE.

5. THE PORTUGUESE ARE SCRUPULOUSLY ABIDING BY THEIR PART OF THE AGREEMENT. ALL BLACK AUXILIARIES, FLECHAS, GE, TE AND THE KATANGA GENDARMES, WILL BE COMPLETELY DISARMED BY MARCH 1975, AS CALLED FOR IN THE UNPUBLISHED PROTOCOL TO THE MOVEMENT. OUR SOURCE SAID MOST OF THE FLECHAS HAVE ALREADY JOINED ONE OF THE LIBERATION ARMIES, GENERALLY THE ARMY PREDOMINATING IN THEIR REGION. THE KATANGA GENDARMES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE AGREED NOT TO JOIN ANY FORCE. THEY ARE IN ANGOLA AS POLITICAL REFUGEES WHOSE SAFETY IS STILL GUARANTEED BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS POWER TO DIRECT FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE PAYING THE KATANGANS FOR SIX MORE MONTHS PROVIDED THEY REMAIN NEUTRAL AND AVOID JOINING ONE OF THE LIBERATION ARMIES.

6. THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (PSP). ANGOLA'S 9,000 MAN COUNTRY-CONFIDENTIAL

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WIDE POLICE FORCE, IS NOW UNDER THE CONTROL OF A TRIUMVIRATE FROM THE LIBERATION GROUPS. EACH GROUP HAS SO FAR BROUGHT TWO HUNDRED OF ITS OWN MEN INTO THE FORCE, WITH MORE TO FOLLOW. SINCE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS NO SAY IN THIS REORGANIZATION OUR SOURCE COULD NOT TELL HOW FAR OR FAST THE MOVEMENTS INTENDED TO GO IN REPLACING THE BASICALLY WHITE POLICE WITH ANGOLANS.

7. THE MILITIA (OPVDCA), A PREDOMINANTLY BLACK GRAB BAG OF FARM,

INDUSTRIAL AND VILLAGE GUARDS NUMBERING 85,000 IS ALSO BEING GRADUALLY DISARMED AND REORGANIZED TO BRING IT UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IT STILL RETAINS MANY OF ITS STATIC GUARD FUNCTIONS. IT WILL ALSO LIKELY BE RE-STAFFED WITH OFFICERS FROM THE LIBERATION FORCES.

8. IN AN ABOUT-FACE FROM A POSITION ADOPTED LAST MONTH, THE MOVEMENTS AGREED TO LET THEIR TROOPS IN THE FI BE EQUIPPED WITH PORTUGUESE ISSUE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT. THE THREE LIBERATION FORCES WILL STILL LIVE IN SEPARATE BARRACKS FROM ONE ANOTHER AND ONLY JOIN TOGETHER FOR PATROLS. ALL FI UNITS, FROM PATROLS TO BATTALIONS, WILL BE COMMANDED BY PORTUGUESE OFFICERS. THIS WAS AGREED UPON TO MAINTAIN HARMONY AMONG THE LIBERATION GROUPS, WHO COULD ACQUIESCE TO PUTTING THEIR TROOPS UNDER PORTUGUESE ORDERS, BUT NOT THOSE OF ANY OTHER MOVEMENT.

9. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE TOLD THE LIBERATION ARMIES THAT THEY WILL LEAVE BEHIND EQUIPMENT FOR THE USE OF THE FUTURE ANGOLAN AIR FORCE AND NAVY. AMONG THE ITEMS, ALL OBSOLESCENT OR OBSOLETE, ARE DC-3S AND NORD-ATLAS TRANSPORT PLANES, HUNDREDS OF TRUCKS AND A SMALL FLEET OF GUNBOATS AND PATROL CRAFT. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE FURTHER AGREED TO TRAIN NAVAL AND AIR FORCE CADRES TO REPAIR AND OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT. NONE OF THE MOVEMENTS HAVE AS YET SHOWN THE SLIGHTEST INTEREST IN NOMINATING MEN FOR THIS TRAINING.

10. THE PROBLEMS NOW BEING ENCOUNTERED WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FI SEEM TO BE MORE THAN NORMAL GROWING PAINS. THE MOST DISTURBING ASPECT TO US IS THE LOW CALIBER OF OFFICERS BEING SECONDED TO THE FI STAFF. THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WILL RETAIN THEIR BEST OFFICERS WITHIN THEIR OWN ARMIES TO PROVIDE THE ALL-IMPORTANT CADRE THAT IS INDISPENSIBLE TO THE RAPID INCREASE IN FORCE LEVELS ALL THE MOVEMENTS ARE NOW UNDERTAKING. AT THIS  
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STAGE THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH INSURING PARTY SURVIVAL, AND MILITARY SUCCESS IN A POSSIBLE CIVIL WAR, THAN IN PREPARING AN ANGOLAN ARMY TO ASSUME NATIONAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS DEPART.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, POLICE FORCES, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LUANDA00286  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchandr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchandr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF ANGOLAN ARMY AND POLICE FORCES  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006